

# Mirandese language

The **Mirandese language** (Mirandese: *mirandés* or *lhéngua mirandesa*; Portuguese: *mirandês* or *língua mirandesa*) is an Astur-Leonese language or language variety<sup>[4]</sup> that is sparsely spoken in a small area of northeastern Portugal in the municipalities of Miranda do Douro, Mogadouro and Vimioso. The Assembly of the Republic granted it official recognition alongside Portuguese for local matters on 17 September 1998 with the law 7/99 of 29 January 1999.<sup>[5]</sup> In 2001, Mirandese was officially recognised by the European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages, which aims to promote the survival of the least spoken European languages.<sup>[6]</sup>

Mirandese has a distinct phonology, morphology and syntax. It has its roots in the local Vulgar Latin spoken in the northern Iberian Peninsula.

Mirandese is a descendant of the Astur-Leonese variety spoken in the Kingdom of León and has both archaisms and innovations that differentiate it from the modern varieties of Astur-Leonese spoken in Spain. In recognition of these differences, and due to its political isolation from the rest of the Astur-Leonese speaking territory, Mirandese has adopted a different written norm to the one used in Spain for Astur-Leonese.

Contents
<b>History</b>
<b>Variants</b>
<b>Phonology</b>
<b>Morphology</b>
<b>Protection measures</b>
<b>Sample text</b>
<b>Recognition</b>
<b>See also</b>
<b>References</b>
<b>Further reading</b>
<b>External links</b>

## History

In the 19th century, *José Leite de Vasconcelos* described it as "the language of the farms, of work, home, and love between the Mirandese". Since 1986–87, it has been taught optionally to students at primary and lower secondary level, and has thus been somewhat recovering. By Law 7/99, Mirandese was given official recognition by the Assembly of the Republic alongside Portuguese. The law provides for its promotion and allows its usage for local matters in *Miranda do Douro*.

Today Mirandese retains fewer than 5,000 speakers (but the number can be up to 15,000 if counting second-language speakers) in the villages of the Municipality of *Miranda do Douro* and in some eastern villages (such as *Vilar Seco* and *Angueira*; in *Caçarelhos*, it is considered recently extinct of the Municipality of *Vimioso*, and some linguistic influence can be observed at other villages of the municipality of *Vimioso* and the municipalities of *Mogadouro*, *Macedo de Cavaleiros* and *Bragança*.

## Variants

Three variants of the Mirandese language exist: Border Mirandese (*Mirandés Raiano*), Central Mirandese (*Mirandés Central*) and Sendinese (*Sendinés*). Most speakers of Mirandese also speak Portuguese.

Mirandese	
<i>Mirandés</i>	
Native to	Portugal
Region	Northeast (Miranda do Douro, Vimioso and Mogadouro)
Native speakers	15,000 (2000) <sup>[1]</sup> (10,000 use it regularly, 5,000 when they return to the area. 2,000 Sendinese in Sendim Vila.) <sup>[2]</sup>
Language family	<div>Indo-European <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Italic<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Romance<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Western<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ibero-Romance<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>West Iberian<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Astur-Leonese<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Mirandese</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></div>
Official status	
Official language in	Co-official recognition. Special protection status in Miranda do Douro, Portugal. Statutory language of provincial identity in 4 municipalities, northeast Portugal (1999, Law No. 7-99 of 29 January). <sup>[2]</sup>
Regulated by	Anstituto de la Lhéngua Mirandesa
Language codes	
ISO 639-2	mw1 ( <span>https://www.1oc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID=309</span> )
ISO 639-3	mw1
Glottolog	mira1251 ( <span>http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mira1251</span> ) <sup>[3]</sup>
Linguasphere	51-AAA-cb

The main differences between Mirandese in Portugal and the Astur-Leonese languages in Spain are caused by the dominant languages in each region. Mirandese has been influenced phonetically and in lexicon by Portuguese and the Astur-Leonese languages in Spain, by Spanish. All have distinctive orthography that phonetically reflects the respective main national languages. Another difference is that Mirandese and Leonese remain very conservative, while Asturian has undergone a greater amount of change.<sup>[7]</sup>

## Phonology

Some historical developments in Mirandese are the following:

- Mirandese maintains distinct reflexes of all seven medieval Ibero-Romance sibilants:

Ibero-Romance	Mirandese	European Portuguese	North/Central Spanish
/t͡ʃ/	/t͡ʃ/ <ch>	/ʃ/ <ch>	/t͡ʃ/ <ch>
/ʃ/	/ʃ/ <x>	/ʃ/ <x>	/x/ <j>
/ʒ/	/ʒ/ <g> / <j>	/ʒ/ <g> / <j>	/x/ <g> / <j>
/t͡ʃs/ > /s͡/	/s͡/ <c> / <ç>	/s͡/ <c> / <ç>	/θ/ <c> / <z>
/d͡z/ > /z͡/	/z͡/ <z>	/z͡/ <z>	/θ/ <c> / <z>
/s͡/	/s͡/ <s> / <-ss->	/s͡/ <s> / <-ss->	/s͡/ <s>
/z͡/	/z͡/ <s>	/z͡/ <s>	/s͡/ <s>

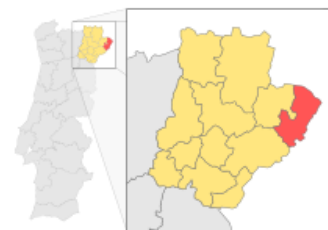
/s͡/ and /z͡/ indicate apico-alveolar sibilants (as in modern Catalan, northern/central peninsular Spanish and coastal northern European Portuguese), while /s͡/ and /z͡/ are dentalized laminal alveolar sibilants (as in most modern Portuguese, French and English). The unrelated Basque language also maintains a distinction between /s͡/ and /s͡/ (Basque has no voiced sibilants), which suggests that the distinction originally was an areal feature across Iberia.

Portuguese spelling still distinguishes all seven and is identical to Mirandese spelling in this respect, but in pronunciation, Portuguese has reduced them to four /s, z, ʃ, ʒ/ except in northern hinterland European Portuguese dialects, including those of the area that Mirandese is spoken. Northern/central Peninsular Spanish has also reduced them to four but in quite a different way: /t͡ʃ, θ, s͡, x/. Western Andalusian Spanish and Latin American Spanish have further reduced them to three: /t͡ʃ, s͡, x/.

- Retention of the initial /f/ from Latin, like nearly all dialects of Western Romance (the major maverick being Spanish, where /f/ > /h/ > ∅).
- As in Portuguese, the Latin initial consonant clusters /pl/, /kl/, /fl/ evolve into /ʃ/.
- Proto-Romance medial clusters -ly- and -cl- became medial /ʃ/.
- The cluster /-mb-/ is kept.
- Proto-Romance -mn- becomes /m/: LŪM'NEM > *lume*.
- Falling diphthongs /ei/, /ou/ preserved.
- Final -o becomes /u/.
- Voiced sibilants are still maintained.
- Retention of intervocalic /l/, /n/.
- Western Romance /ε/, /ɔ/ diphthongize to /jε/, /wo/ (as in Italian, and unlike Spanish /je/, /we/). That happens not only before palatals, as in Aragonese, but also before nasals.
- /l/ is palatalized word-initially (as in other Astur-Leonese languages and in Catalan).

## Morphology

As in Portuguese, Mirandese still uses the following synthetic tenses:



Locator map of the Miranda do Douro municipality, which harbors the vast majority of Mirandese speakers.



Street sign in Genísio, with the street name in Mirandese and in Portuguese

- Synthetic pluperfect in *-ra*.
- Future subjunctive in *-r(e)*.
- Personal infinitive in *-r(e)*, which has the same endings as the future subjunctive but often differs as the personal infinitive always uses the infinitive stem, whereas the future subjunctive uses the past.

## Protection measures

The following measures have been taken to protect and develop Mirandese:

- allow primary teaching staff in the district of Miranda do Douro to teach in Mirandese, since 1986/1987, thanks to the ministerial authorisation published on the 9th September 1985;
- publish books in Mirandese and about the Mirandese language, promoted by the Council of Miranda do Douro;
- facilitate annual celebrations in the city as well as a literary competition, promoted by the Council of Miranda do Douro;
- use of Mirandese in town celebrations, official commemorations and, occasionally, on social media;
- publish two volumes of the Asterix comic books;
- translate all the toponymic signs in Miranda do Douro, promoted by the Council of Miranda do Douro in 2006;
- develop studies by research centres in Portugal, such as "Atlas Linguístico de Portugal", by the Centro de Linguística at University of Lisbon, and "Inquérito Linguístico Boléo", by the University of Coimbra;
- create Biquipédia, a Mirandese Wikipedia;
- make sites available in Mirandese, such as Photoblog and WordPress.

## Sample text

The following is a sample text of the Mirandese language, written by Amadeu Ferreira, and published in the newspaper Público, on 24 July 2007.

Mirandese	Portuguese	English
Muitas lhénguas ténen proua de ls sous pergaminos antigos, de la lhiteratura screbida hai cientos d'anhos i de scritores hai muito afamados, hoje bandeiras dessas lhénguas. Mas outras hai que nun puoden tener proua de nada desso, cumo ye l causo de la lhéngua mirandesa.	Muitas línguas têm orgulho dos seus pergaminhos antigos, da literatura escrita há centenas de anos e de escritores muito famosos, hoje bandeiras dessas línguas. Mas há outras que não podem ter orgulho de nada disso, como é o caso da língua mirandesa.	Many languages take pride in their ancient scrolls, their centuries-old literature, and in famous writers, today standards of those languages. But there are others which can't boast of any of this, as in the case of Mirandese.

Then a comparison of the previous text in three modern languages of the Asturo-leonese group:

Mirandese	Leonese	Asturian
Muitas lhénguas ténen proua de ls sous pergaminos antigos, de la lhiteratura screbida hai cientos d'anhos i de scritores hai muito afamados, hoje bandeiras dessas lhénguas. Mas outras hai que nun puoden tener proua de nada desso, cumo ye l causo de la lhéngua mirandesa.	Muitas llinguas tien arguyu de los sous pergaminos antiguos, de la lliteratura escrita van cientos d'annos y d'escriitores bien famosos; guei bandeiras d'eisas llinguas. Peru hai outras que nun pueden tener arguyu de nada d'eisu, cumu ye'l casu de la llingua mirandesa.	Munches llingües tienen arguyu de los sos pergaminos antiguos, de la lliteratura escrita hai cientos d'años y d'escriitores enforma famosos, güei banderes d'esos llingües. Pero hai otres que nun pueden tener arguyu de nada d'eso, como ye'l casu de la llingua mirandesa.

## Recognition

Mirandese, given its status as a recognised language in Portugal after Portuguese, has been the subject in recent years of some publicity and attention in other parts of Portugal. A monthly chronicle in Mirandese, by researcher and writer Amadeu Ferreira, appears in the daily Portuguese national newspaper Público. The first volume of the *Adventures of Asterix*, named *Asterix, L Goulés (Asterix the Gaul)*, was published in a Mirandese translation by Amadeu Ferreira in 2005, and sold throughout Portugal. Amadeu Ferreira also translated into Mirandese the epic poem by Camões, *Os Lusíadas (Ls Lusíadas)*, under his pseudonym Francisco Niebro and published it in 2009.<sup>[8]</sup> In 2011, the four Gospels of the Bible's New Testament were translated into Mirandese, and in 2013 the entire Bible was translated into the language by Domingos Augusto Ferreira.<sup>[9]</sup>

## See also

- Asturian language
- Extremaduran language
- Leonese language

## References

- Mirandese (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/mwl/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
- Mirandese language (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/mwl/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
- Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Mirandese" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/language/d/id/mira1251>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
- "Discovering Mirandese" (<https://termcoord.eu/2015/05/discovering-mirandese/>). *Terminology Coordination Unit*. 2015-05-26. Retrieved 2020-01-24.
- "Lei 7/99, 1999-01-29" (<https://dre.pt/pesquisa/-/search/182838/details/maximized>). *Diário da República Eletrónico* (in Portuguese). Retrieved 2020-01-24.
- Svobodová, Petra. "Mirandese language and its influence on the culture of the municipality of Miranda do Douro" ([https://www.academia.edu/34191207/Mirand%C3%AAs\\_a\\_L%C3%ADngua\\_da\\_Terra\\_de\\_Miranda\\_e\\_a\\_sua\\_influ%C3%Aancia\\_na\\_cultura\\_local\\_Mirandese\\_language\\_and\\_its\\_influence\\_on\\_the\\_culture\\_of\\_the\\_municipality\\_of\\_Miranda\\_do\\_Douro](https://www.academia.edu/34191207/Mirand%C3%AAs_a_L%C3%ADngua_da_Terra_de_Miranda_e_a_sua_influ%C3%Aancia_na_cultura_local_Mirandese_language_and_its_influence_on_the_culture_of_the_municipality_of_Miranda_do_Douro)). *Universidade Palacký*.
- [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325302516\\_Mirandes\\_leones\\_portugues\\_e\\_castelhano\\_glotoxicidio\\_e\\_conciliacao](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325302516_Mirandes_leones_portugues_e_castelhano_glotoxicidio_e_conciliacao)
- "Oito anos para traduzir "Os Lusíadas" em língua mirandesa" (<https://www.dn.pt/cartaz/livros/interior/oito-anos-para-traduzir-os-lusiadas-em-lingua-mirandesa-1643606.html?id=1643606>). *Diário de Notícias* (in Portuguese). Lusa. 19 August 2010. Retrieved 3 July 2018.
- Galvan, Virginia (22 March 2013). "Exposição "Bíblia Sagrada" traduzida em mirandês em Miranda do Douro" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20140606205252/http://local.pt/portugal/norte/exposicao-biblia-sagrada-traduzida-em-mirandes-em-miranda-do-douro/>) (in Portuguese). Local.Pt. Archived from the original (<http://local.pt/portugal/norte/exposicao-biblia-sagrada-traduzida-em-mirandes-em-miranda-do-douro/>) on 6 June 2014. Retrieved 21 August 2014.

## Further reading

- Ferreira, Manuela Barros e Raposo, Domingos (coord) (1999), *Convenção Ortográfica da Língua Mirandesa*, Miranda do Douro, Lisbon, ed. Câmara Municipal de Miranda do Douro / Centro de Linguística da Universidade de Lisboa

## External links

- Convenção Ortográfica da Língua Mirandesa* (<https://web.archive.org/web/20030629014648/http://mirandes.no.sapo.pt/LMRNconvencao.pdf>) [Orthographic Convention for Mirandese Language] (PDF) (in Portuguese), 1999, archived from the original (<http://mirandes.no.sapo.pt/LMRNconvencao.pdf>) (PDF) on 2003-06-29
- Excerpt of *The Lusíads* in Mirandese (<https://web.archive.org/web/20051124073816/http://www.jornalnordeste.com/index.asp?idEdicao=76&id=2353&idSeccao=646&Action=noticia>)
- L Mirandês: Ña Lhéngua Minoritaira an Pertual (<https://web.archive.org/web/20060321082115/http://www.romaniaminor.net/ianua/ianua02/02ianua04.pdf>) Mirandese: A minority language in Portugal (PDF, in Mirandese)
- (in Portuguese) Lei n. 7/99 dre.pt (<http://data.dre.pt/eli/lei/7/1999/01/29/p/dre/pt/html>) – Piece of legislation which officially recognizes Mirandese as a language of Portugal
- Seth Kugel, "In Portugal, Mirandese spoken here—and only here" (<http://frugaltraveler.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/01/17/in-portugal-mirandese-spoken-here-and-only-here/>), *The New York Times*, January 17, 2012



Public sign with the history of the Cathedral of Miranda do Douro, written in Mirandese.

Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mirandese\\_language&oldid=966577182](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mirandese_language&oldid=966577182)"

This page was last edited on 7 July 2020, at 22:07 (UTC).

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization.